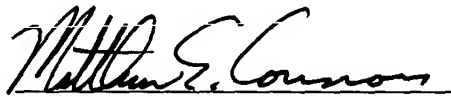


**REMARKS**

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to conform the claims to U.S. patent practice.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew E. Connors". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

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